

INVEST RESPONSIBLY Choose banks that don't invest in countries and companies whose social policies you oppose. Consider community credit unions, loan funds, or socially responsible investment funds. Offer interest-free or low interest loans to movement groups.

MAKE USE OF ELECTIONS There is more to elections than voting. Run an independent candidate or challenge the incumbent in a primary. Demand that minor party candidates have equal time and access to the ballot. Make use of candidate forums: after researching their voting record, scatter people in the audience to raise issues that candidates like to avoid. If there are no forums, picket the campaign headquarters to publicize the issues.

BOYCOTT Boycott consumer goods made by military contractors and those with anti-labor policies. Don't buy war toys. Boycott entertainment that glorifies violence, sexism, racism, or homophobia. Write the companies to tell them of your objections. Place leaflets or stickers on or near products you boycott to notify others to beware. Support alternative products and co-ops.

RESIST WAR TAXES Half of all federal income tax dollars go to the military. Send a letter of protest with your tax return. Refuse to pay the Federal Excise tax on your phone bill. Refuse some or all of your federal income tax—see the resources section to learn more about tax resistance. Join the protests on April 15.

ORGANIZE AND DEMONSTRATE Demonstrations have proven to be effective tools. Powerful vigils have begun with one person in a public place with a sign. Gather ten friends and hold signs along a busy stretch of highway or on a bridge. Each Fall, WRL promotes actions for International YouthPeace Week and A Day Without the Pentagon. Hiroshima and Nagasaki days — August 6 and 9 — are perfect for small actions. Set up a phone tree of people who are willing to react to events and gather on short notice. Alert media before the event.

RESOURCES

from the
WAR RESISTERS LEAGUE

- ☐ **WRL ORGANIZER'S MANUAL**
222 page book covering all aspects of organizing. Excellent for new groups. \$10 plus \$2 postage.
- ☐ **YOUTHPEACE ORGANIZING PACKET**
Over 30 articles with background and organizing materials for young people and those organizing with and for young people. \$8 plus \$2 postage.
- ☐ **THE NONVIOLENT ACTIVIST**
The magazine of the War Resisters League. Sample copies free. Subscriptions \$15; free to members. Six issues/year.
- ☐ **WAR RESISTERS LEAGUE PEACE CALENDAR**
5½" x 8½" desk calendar with a different theme every year. Includes important organizing dates and resources listings for peace and justice. Current calendar \$12; previous years \$4 each.
- ☐ **WRL KEY LIST**
A mailing of resources, actions, calendar and ideas for organizers. Six/year. Sample copy free; subscriptions \$15/year.
- ☐ **WAR TAX RESISTANCE**
A Guide to Withholding Your Support from the Military. Everything you need to know to get started in war tax resistance. \$12 plus \$2 postage.
- ☐ **HANDBOOK FOR NONVIOLENT ACTION**
Booklet helps you prepare for nonviolent civil disobedience actions. \$3 plus \$1 postage.
- ☐ **FREE PACKET**
Materials about the War Resisters League, containing the WRL booklist (including buttons, bumperstickers, hats, t-shirts, etc.) and brochures about WRL programs, including YouthPeace and Disarmament.
- ☐ **THE MOSQUITO BROCHURE**
Please send _____ copies of this brochure. Single copies are free; \$15 per 100.

Enclosed is \$_____ for the items checked above.

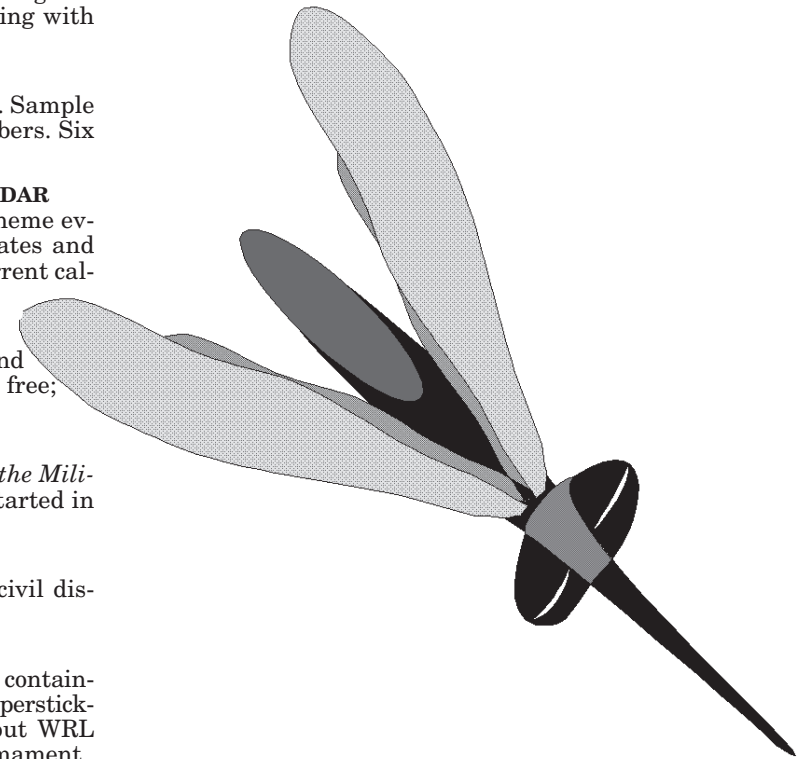
NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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If you think
you're too small
to be effective ...



... you've never
been in bed
with a mosquito

WAR RESISTERS LEAGUE guide to
empowering people without guns or much

15 Ways To Be a Mosquito for Peace

BE INFORMED

Become a member of WRL and read the *Nonviolent Activist* to keep up with the pacifist movement. Check the list of progressive publications in the WRL Peace Calendar. Surf the Internet: see WRL's web site, and search for "nonviolence" or "peace" or "Gandhi" and see what you find.

CALL TALK SHOWS

Don't just listen to talk shows—call in. Be brief, be courteous, but be heard. Check out community access cable TV. Progressive groups can often get air time.

SHARE LITERATURE

No one likes having viewpoints imposed on them, but sharing is different from imposing. So give the WRL Peace Calendar as a gift and let the pages speak to them. Also, friends won't be offended if you say "This brochure interested me and I thought it might interest you."

TALK WITH FRIENDS

You are not the only person in your community worried about the world. Talk with friends. Form a study group or a once-a-month potluck where videos, books, articles can be shared and possible actions discussed.

GO GRAPHIC

Buttons, the subtle-but-powerful broken rifle pin, postcards, bumperstickers, T-shirts, small stickers for your envelopes—all are quiet ways of saying "I disagree and am exploring alternatives" and telling others you aren't afraid to make your views known. This may encourage them to speak up.

IN THE FACE OF MASS MEDIA, BIG GOVERNMENT, MULTINATIONAL corporations, huge military machines, and a flood of information too great for us to handle, we feel helpless. People don't have conversations anymore, they "interface." Politics is reduced to "sound bites." The military has millions for its public relations efforts; peace activists have pennies.

What can one person do? What can you do?

Social change comes when many individuals act together. But before a movement develops, individuals need to take action—even if it means acting alone.

Look at our history. Freedom of religion was won because of people such as Ann Hutchinson, who was a member of the Puritan church. She believed that conscience has a higher authority than law. Her public teachings on this topic and her outspokenness as a woman were a threat to Puritan leaders. Her banishment from Massachusetts led to the establishment of new settlements with wider freedom of thought and religious tolerance.

Henry David Thoreau spent only one night in jail for refusing to pay taxes for the Mexican-American War, but his essay "On the Duty of Civil Disobedience" is part of the common heritage of the human race—reaching Tolstoy in Russia, Gandhi in India and, 100 years later, a young pastor in Alabama, Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Civil Rights revolution began with one, two, or ten people defying racial barriers. It was united in purpose and action in 1955 when Rosa Parks sat in the "whites only" section of a bus in Montgomery, Alabama.

As pacifists we believe in nonviolence, and what a wealth of tools and tactics we have at our command! Our methods range from writing letters and handing out leaflets to resisting military service and blocking recruiting centers to strikes and noncooperation.

Change does not come swiftly. It takes time. Changing a society takes layer upon layer of efforts.

One of the most important things about nonviolence is that you do not have to be a hero to use it. There never was a great movement made up entirely of heroes. In order for a movement to grow, there must be room for those of us who are timid, shy, and, from time to time, afraid. Most of us are uncertain about many things, most of us find it hard to take risks, but we are in a movement to see what each of us can contribute and to rejoice that—together—we can change things.

WRITE THE EDITOR

Most people read the letters column. Write a short, factual letter responding to an article. Give a perspective that papers don't often print.

CONTRIBUTE MONEY

Organizations such as War Resisters League depend on voluntary contributions. Your contribution makes you a partner in our work and it helps us to create resources that reach more people. Remember us in your will.

POLITICIZE YOUR OFFICE

To grow we need to reach out to new people. Wear a broken rifle pin, hang a poster in your office, tell your co-workers that you spent Saturday at a peace demonstration, wear a political T-shirt to the company picnic. If you are a teacher, invite a peace activist to speak in your school. If you are an academic, refuse research on military projects. Encourage your union to work in coalition with peace and social change groups.

LOBBY

Petition members of Congress, the city council or state legislature. Meet with them in their offices. Find out the name of their key assistant; you can often get more done by talking with that person. Of course, Congress isn't going to abolish the military without monumental changes in public attitudes. Thank officials for good acts!

TEACH PEACE

Oppose ROTC, JROTC and the presence of military recruiters in high schools. Offer classes or speakers that present alternatives to violence. We can teach others everyday by example. The hardest thing to teach is the *method* of nonviolence—the "way to peace." Encourage, welcome, take part in dialogue with the military and those who oppose your views.